



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest  
Service

Clarks Fork Ranger District  
Greybull Ranger District  
Wapiti Ranger District

North Zone – Shoshone N.F.  
203A Yellowstone Ave.  
Cody, WY 82414-9313  
Voice: 307-527-6921  
Fax: 307-578-1202

---

File Code: 1950-1

Date: March 24, 2004

**Scoping Statement  
Request for Crandall Area Telecommunications Facilities**

**USDA FOREST SERVICE  
Shoshone National Forest  
North Zone/Clarks Fork Ranger Districts  
Park County, Wyoming**

Dear Interested Party:

The Shoshone National Forest has received a proposal from Qwest Communications to build additional telecommunications systems in the Crandall area northwest of Cody, Wyoming. Qwest currently has requests from new Crandall residents for telecommunication service that cannot be met due to existing facilities currently operating at 100% capacity. The quality and reliability of service to Qwest's existing customers in the Crandall area would also be enhanced with the new facilities.

An informational meeting is scheduled on Wednesday March 31<sup>st</sup> to provide information and explain the options being considered. Mike Ceballos, President of Qwest in Wyoming, will explain the project and Dave Myers, District Ranger from the Forest Service, will explain and answer questions regarding the project and the process to permit such facilities on National Forest Service system lands. The meeting will be held at the Cody Club Room, 1240 Beck Avenue, beginning at 6:30 pm.

Tentatively, a second meeting is being planned for the afternoon of May 14<sup>th</sup> in the Crandall area at the Painter Store/Restaurant.

**The Proposed Action**

Several options to meet the purpose and need are being considered in terms of facilities, cost, locations, and potential environmental effects. Initial possibilities include:

- 1) Install a 24 by 34 foot flat passive reflector panel in the upper Dillworth Bench area to relay signals. It would involve an area of less than one acre and would be located on National Forest System land. Access to install the panel would be by helicopter and maintenance needs would be minimal once it was in place. It would be located well outside of the Wild and Scenic Clarks Fork River corridor, although not visible from the river itself because of the incised nature of the canyon. The location would also be in the South Beartooth Highway Roadless Area Review and Evaluation (RARE II) area; however, road construction of any kind is not part of this option.
- 2) Install a passive reflector panel on Dead Indian Pass, near the Chief Joseph Scenic Highway. Several sites would need to be developed to make this system work. In addition to the panel at Dead Indian Pass, a new electronic site with a small building and 40 foot tower with an eight foot



dish would be needed at Deadman Bench on National Forest Service System land. Another 100-foot tower with an eight-foot dish located on private land near the Painter Store or near the highway bridge across the Clarks Fork River in the Painter Store area in close proximity to the Highway would be needed to complete the relay system.

3) Continue to spot repair the existing phone line along 18 miles of their existing easement/right of way near the Chief Joseph Scenic Highway. Full replacement is not an option that is being considered in detail due to expense and logistic limitations. Repair of faulty sections of the existing copper line will not increase phone capacity to the Crandall area.

### **Purpose and Need**

**Purpose for the Action.** The primary purpose of the proposal is to build additional telecommunications facilities to meet increased demand. An analysis of the options above would be completed, including consideration of issues and concerns from the public and interested parties, to determine the most feasible location and to minimize resource disturbances.

**Need for the Action.** The proposed new facilities and increased telecommunications capacity is needed to provide new customers with phone service and enhance service to existing residents in the Crandall area. The facilities that Qwest is proposing to build will be technologically advanced and will be designed to provide adequate capacity and reliability to the Crandall area for the foreseeable future.

### **Scoping and Public Involvement**

Your comments will assist us in identifying any issues and concerns with this proposed project and help in the decision making process. This is an opportunity for your involvement early in the planning process; your comments and suggestions are needed and encouraged. Project alternatives will be determined and environmental consequences analyzed during the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process initiated by this scoping letter. We are asking for substantive comments and ideas and any other information you may want us to consider during project development and the environmental analysis.

An interdisciplinary team of resource specialists will review and analyze the effects of the proposed action commensurate with the issues raised from the scoping and public involvement process. The team will consider issues that arise from internal and external sources including individuals, other government agencies, interested groups, and Native American Tribes. Scoping may identify other management opportunities or activities, provide additional information that the team will incorporate into the proposed action, and help formulate alternatives. A non-significant, site-specific amendment to the Forest Plan may be needed for this project.

### **Contacts**

The public is provided this opportunity to identify and submit issues and concerns they feel the Forest Service should address. If you feel we have overlooked something or have additional information, comments need to be as specific as possible to assist us in the project planning and analysis. Questions should be directed to Catherine Pinegar, Project Leader, and telephone (307) 527-6921.

It will be most helpful if your comments are stated in terms of the action, the effect of the action, and what resource will be affected. The more specific a comment (especially as to location), the easier it will be for the interdisciplinary team to address it during project development and environmental analysis.

A minimum 30-day public comment period is being provided; your comments would be most helpful if received in writing no later than April 30, 2004. Written comments can be mailed to: Marty Sharp, NEPA Coordinator, North Zone/Wapiti Ranger District, 203A Yellowstone Ave., Cody, WY 82414, e-mailed to [comments-rockymtn-shoshone-clarksfork@fs.fed.us](mailto:comments-rockymtn-shoshone-clarksfork@fs.fed.us), faxed to (307) 527-1202, or phone (307) 527-6921.

**Thank You.** Your interest in our programs and projects, and your participation in the environmental planning process are appreciated. Your comments are important to us. We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

/s/ David R. Myers  
DAVID R. MYERS  
District Ranger

Enclosure